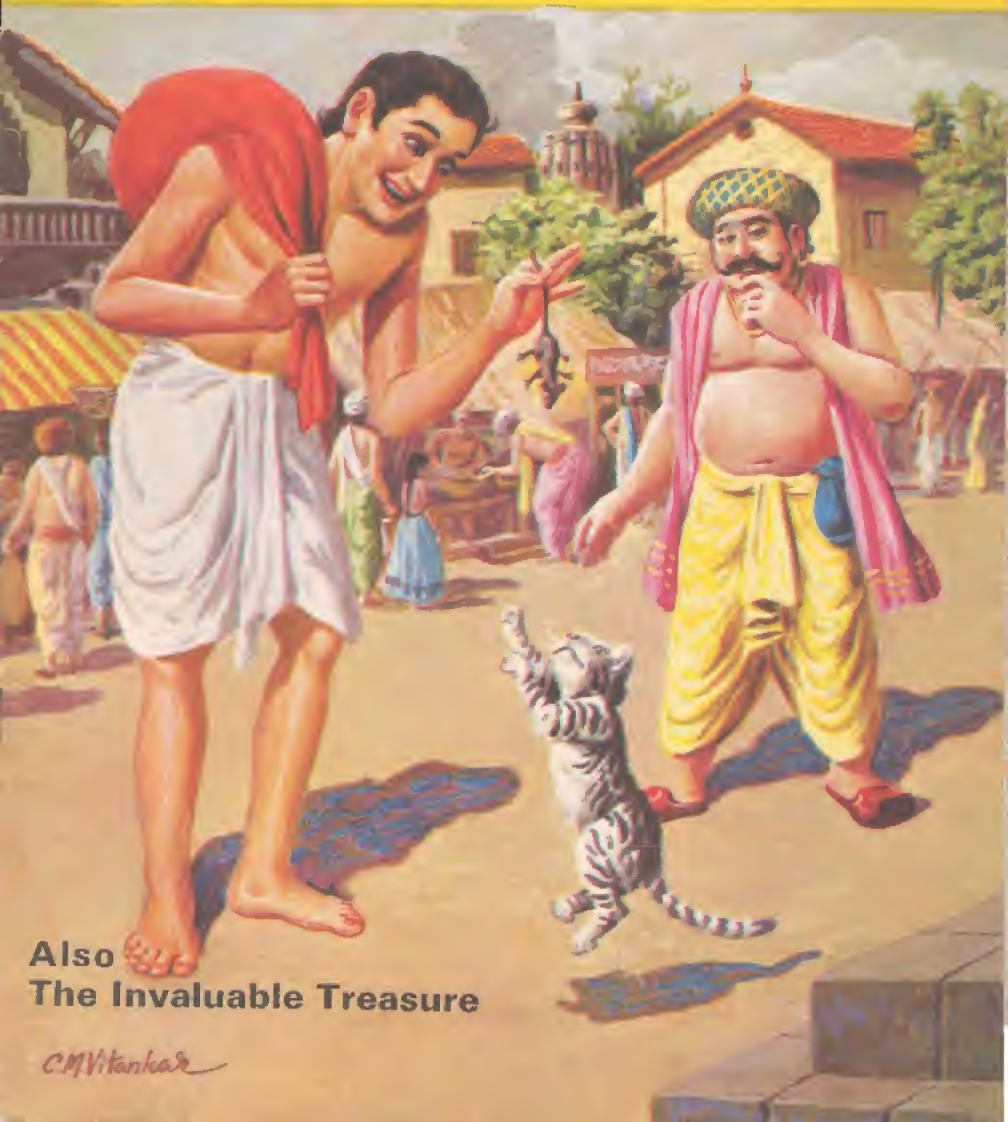




No 269

# JATAKA TALES

## The Mouse Merchant



Also  
The Invaluable Treasure

*CM Vitankar*

All living creatures die to be born again, so the Hindus believe. The Buddha was no exception. Legend has it that several lifetimes as a Bodhisattva went into the making of the Buddha, the Enlightened one.

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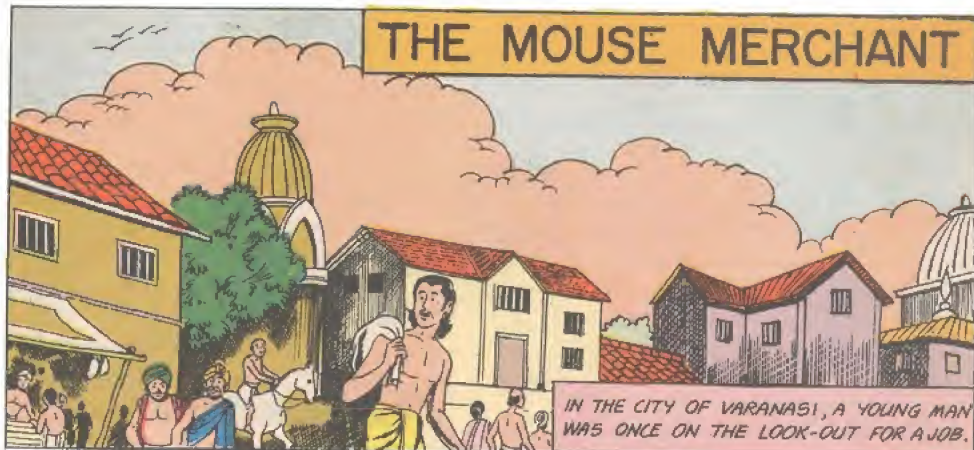
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**Editor : Anant Pai      Script : Subba Rao**

**Artworks : Chandrakant D. Rane**

# THE MOUSE MERCHANT



IN THE CITY OF VARANASI, A YOUNG MAN WAS ONCE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR A JOB.

IT SO HAPPENED THAT THE ROYAL TREASURER, ACCOMPANIED BY A FRIEND, PASSED BY.

THE KING VALUES YOUR WORK. THE TREASURY IS OVERFLOWING WITH RICHES. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF YOUR SUCCESS ?

INITIATIVE AND ENTERPRISE.

I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT I MEAN. DO YOU SEE THAT DEAD MOUSE ?

YES... BUT....

EVEN IF HE HAS NO MONEY, A YOUNG MAN WITH INITIATIVE COULD JUST PICK UP THAT MOUSE AND START A BUSINESS.

A DEAD MOUSE AS CAPITAL ? HA ! HA ! HA !



THE YOUNG MAN STOPPED AND GAZED AT THE DEAD MOUSE.

IT SOUNDS LIKE AN ABSURD IDEA...

... BUT THE TREASURER MUST SURELY KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT!

BUT WHAT CAN I DO WITH IT?

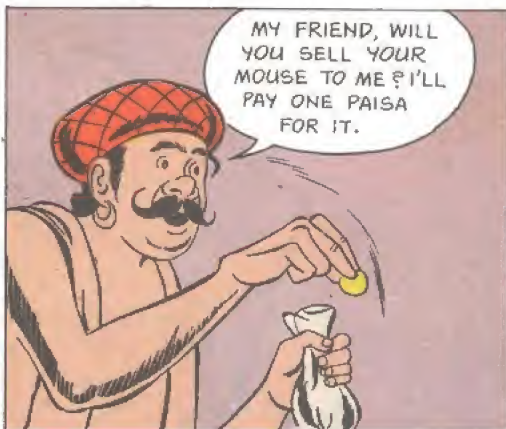
WHO WOULD WANT TO BUY A DEAD MOUSE?

HEY, PUSSY, COME BACK!

AH! NOW I KNOW  
WHAT HAS ATTRACTED  
HIM!



MY FRIEND, WILL  
YOU SELL YOUR  
MOUSE TO ME? I'LL  
PAY ONE PAISA  
FOR IT.



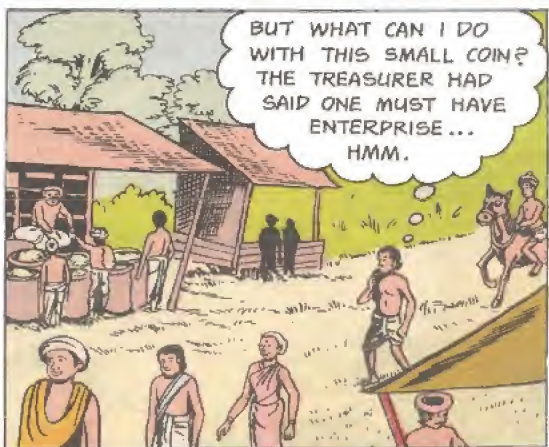
THE MOUSE  
IS YOURS!



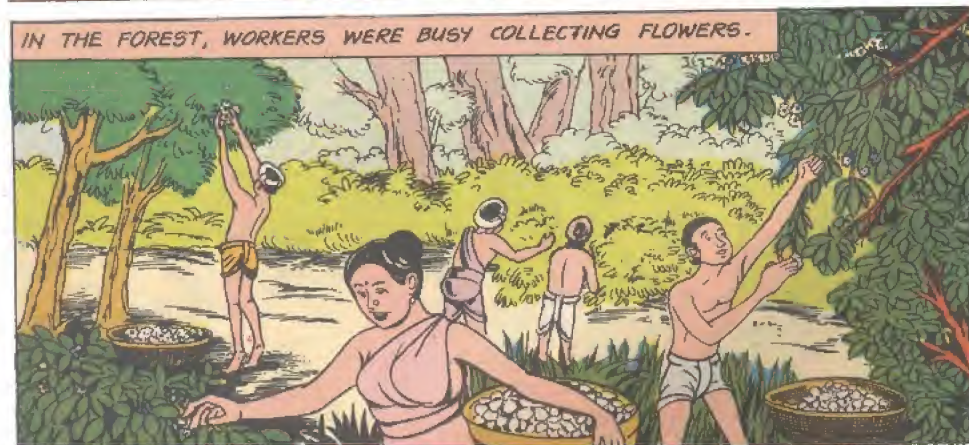
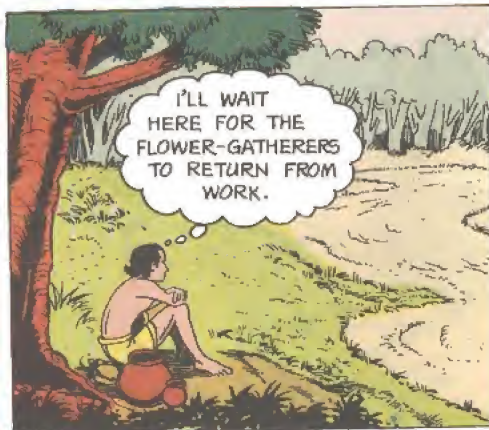
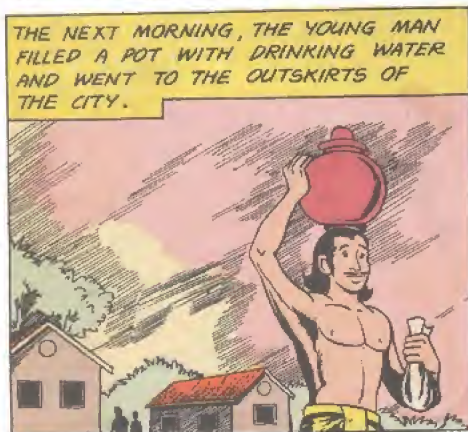
THE FIRST  
COIN I'VE  
EARNED!



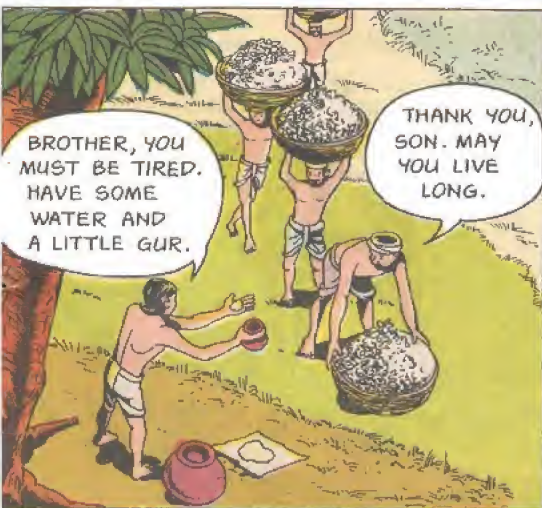
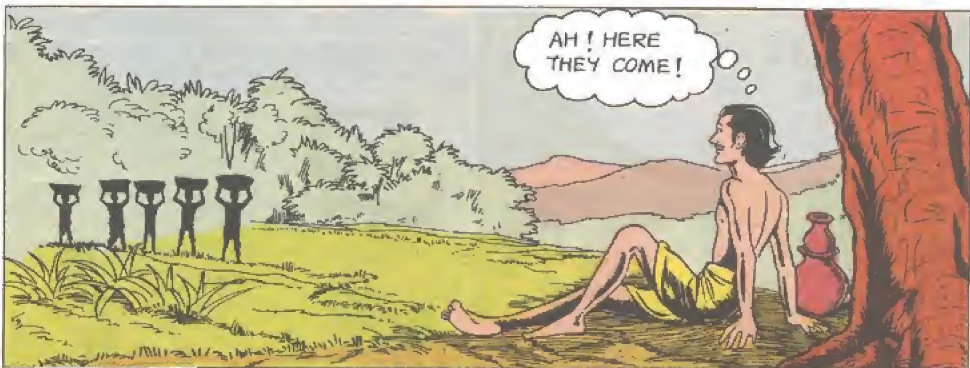
BUT WHAT CAN I DO  
WITH THIS SMALL COIN?  
THE TREASURER HAD  
SAID ONE MUST HAVE  
ENTERPRISE...  
HMM.



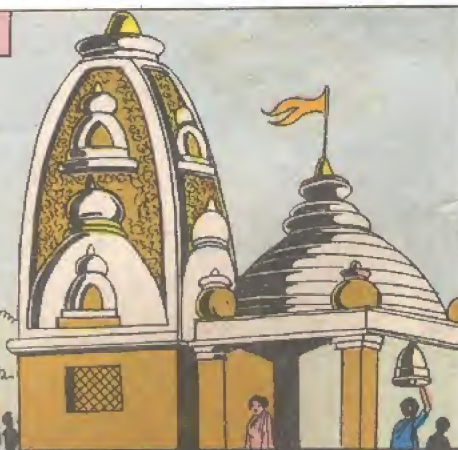
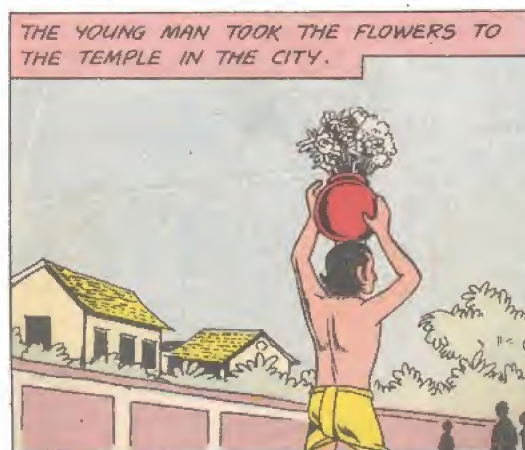
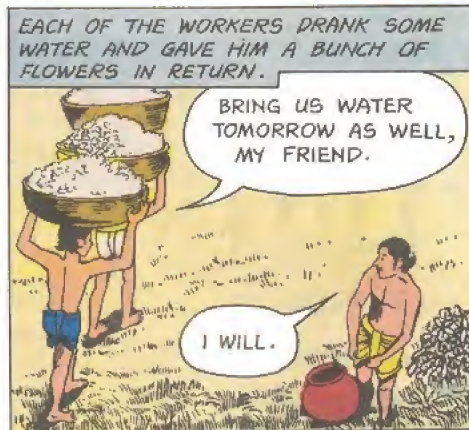




IT WAS LATE IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN THEY FINISHED THEIR WORK AND BEGAN RETURNING TO THE CITY.









THERE HE SOLD THEM.

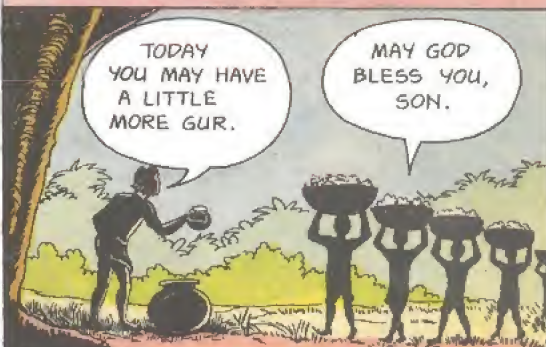
HERE  
IS THE  
MONEY.

IN A  
MINUTE,  
SIR.

A BUNCH  
FOR ME,  
TOO.

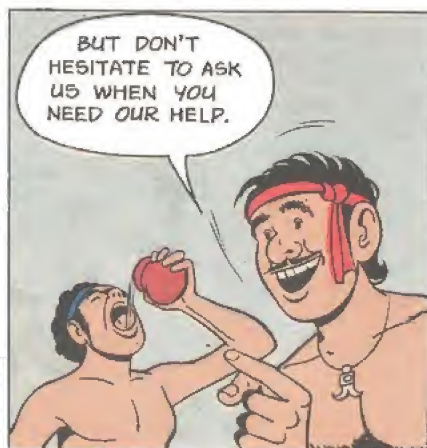
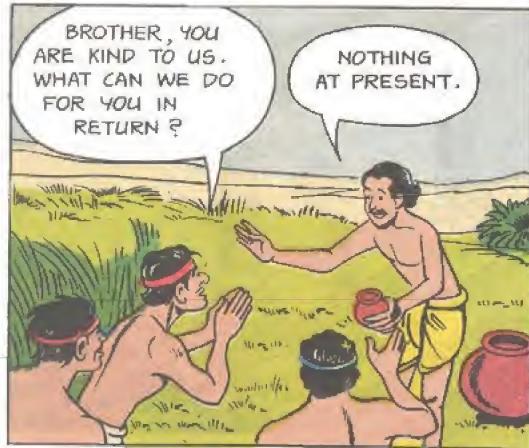


WITH THE MONEY HE EARNED, THE YOUNG  
MAN BOUGHT A BIG WATER POT AND A  
LARGER QUANTITY OF GUR. THE NEXT DAY  
HE WENT BACK TO THE FOREST



LATER, HE WENT EVEN FURTHER AWAY, TO THE FIELDS WHERE  
GRASS-CUTTERS WERE WORKING.

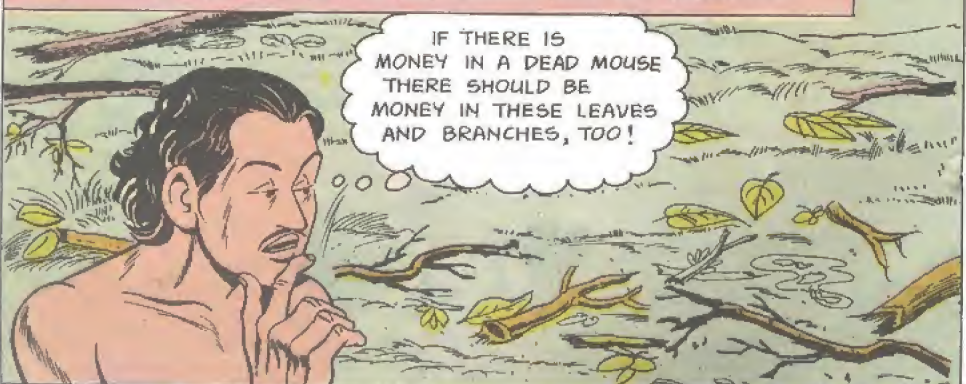




A MONTH PASSED BY. ONE EVENING, THE YOUNG MAN WAS RETURNING HOME, WHEN A STORM BROKE OUT.



EVERYWHERE, THE WIND BLEW DOWN LEAVES AND DRY BRANCHES.





THE NEXT MORNING HE WENT TO THE PALACE GARDEN AND SPOKE TO THE GARDENER.



YOU LOOK  
WORRIED, UNCLE.  
CAN I HELP  
YOU ?

HOW CAN  
YOU ? THE GARDEN  
IS LITTERED  
WITH BRANCHES...

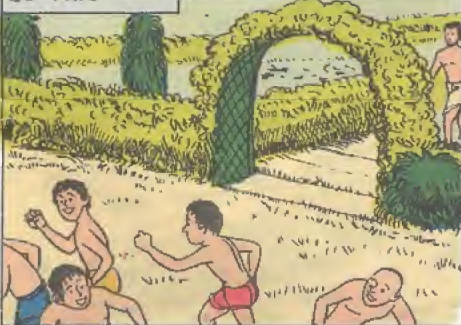
...AND THE KING IS  
EXPECTED ANY MOMENT  
NOW. I DON'T KNOW  
HOW TO CLEAR THE  
MESS BEFORE HE  
COMES.

I'LL HELP YOU  
IF I CAN KEEP  
THE FALLEN  
BRANCHES.

TAKE THEM,  
SON. ONLY,  
TAKE THEM  
AWAY SOON.

I'LL GO AND GET  
SOME HELP. I'LL  
BE BACK IN A  
MINUTE.

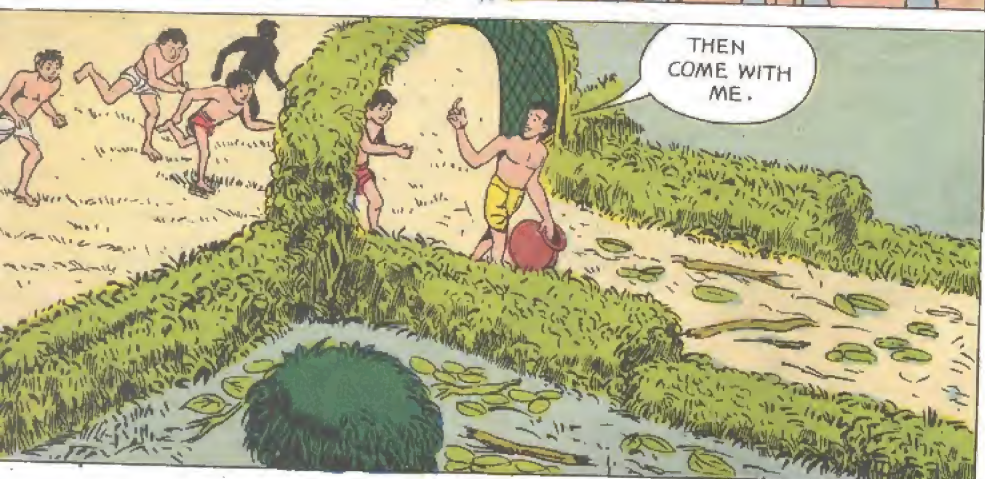
THE YOUNG MAN DID NOT HAVE TO  
GO FAR —



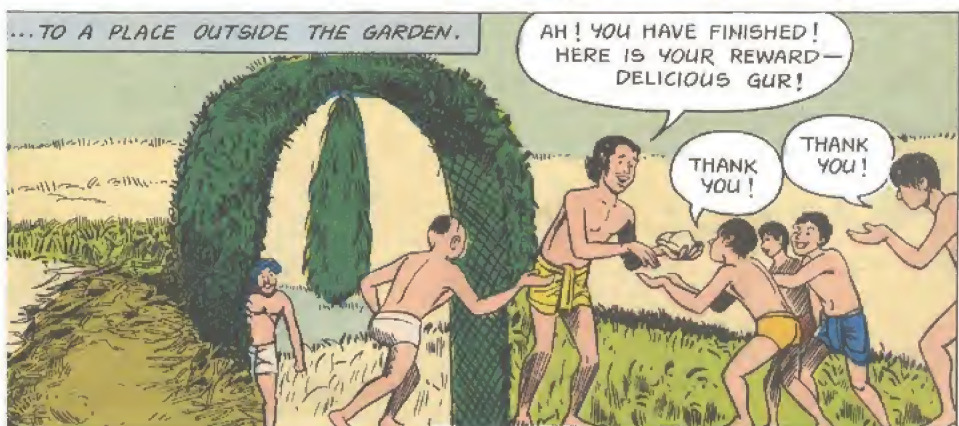
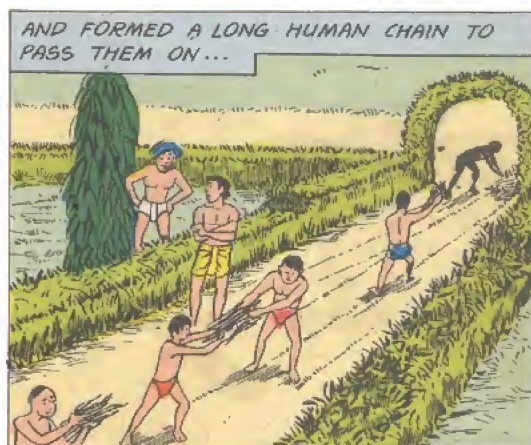
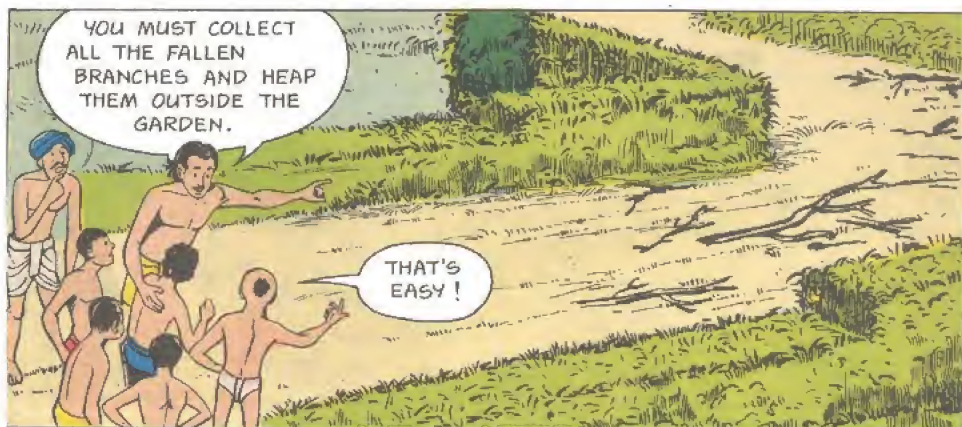
WOULD YOU LIKE  
TO HAVE SOME  
GUR ?

GUR ! OH,  
CERTAINLY !









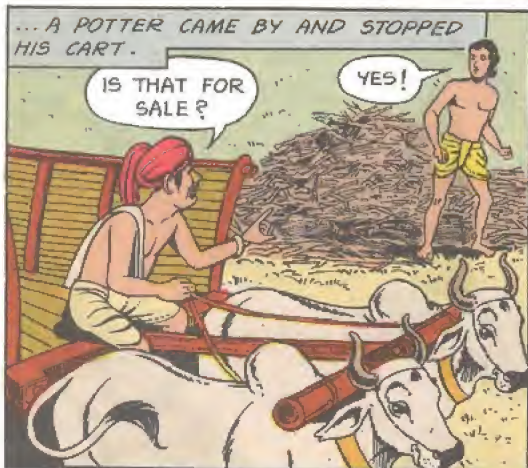
JUST AS THE YOUNG MAN WAS WONDERING WHAT HE SHOULD DO NEXT...



...A POTTER CAME BY AND STOPPED HIS CART.

IS THAT FOR SALE?

YES!



HERE ARE SIXTEEN COPPER PIECES. PLEASE HELP ME LOAD MY CART.

YES, OF COURSE!



NOW I HAVE ALL THE WOOD I NEED TO FIRE THE POTS SPECIALLY ORDERED BY THE KING.



THE YOUNG MAN THEN WENT WITH THE POTTER...





... TO THE MARKET.

HAVE YOU HEARD?  
THE HORSE-DEALER  
WILL BE COMING  
TOMORROW.

YES, YES. I HEAR  
HE WILL BE  
BRINGING FIVE  
HUNDRED HORSES  
TO SELL.



AHA! THAT'S  
USEFUL INFORMATION!  
THANKS FOR LETTING  
ME KNOW!



HURRIEDLY, HE WENT TO THE  
GRASS-CUTTERS.

FRIENDS,  
I SEEK A  
FAVOUR OF  
YOU.

AT LAST! TELL  
US WHAT WE  
SHOULD DO.



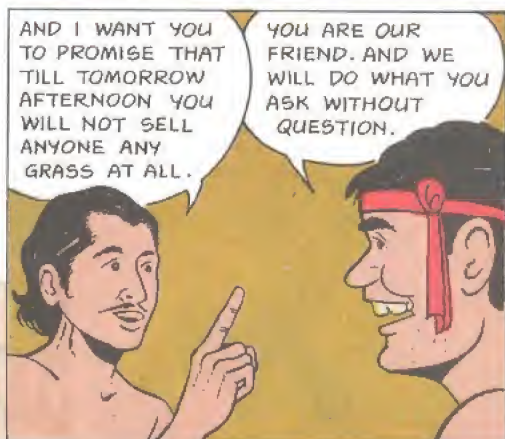
I WANT A  
BUNDLE OF  
GRASS FROM  
EACH OF  
YOU.

WE ARE FIVE  
HUNDRED IN ALL—  
SO AS MANY  
BUNDLES OF  
GRASS WILL BE  
DELIVERED TO YOU  
TONIGHT.



AND I WANT YOU  
TO PROMISE THAT  
TILL TOMORROW  
AFTERNOON YOU  
WILL NOT SELL  
ANYONE ANY  
GRASS AT ALL.

YOU ARE OUR  
FRIEND. AND WE  
WILL DO WHAT YOU  
ASK WITHOUT  
QUESTION.



LATE THAT EVENING —

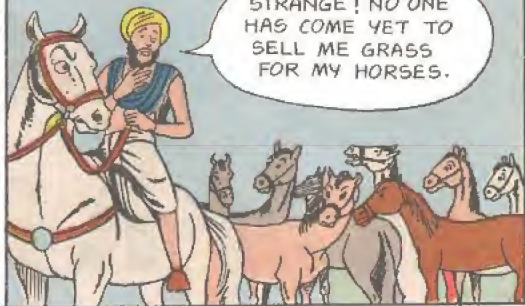
YOU SEE,  
WE HAVE  
KEPT OUR  
WORD!

I SHALL  
BE FOREVER  
INDEBTED  
TO YOU.



THE NEXT MORNING THE HORSE-DEALER  
ARRIVED WITH FIVE HUNDRED HORSES  
AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF VARANASI.

STRANGE! NO ONE  
HAS COME YET  
TO SELL ME GRASS  
FOR MY HORSES.

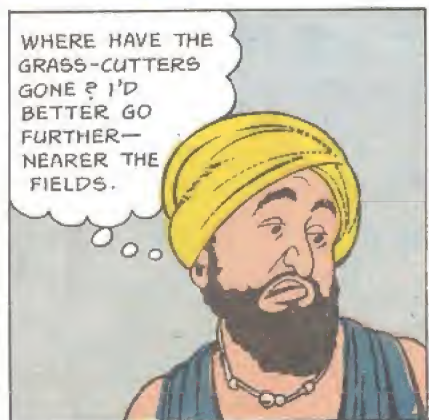


HE WENT TO THE MARKET.

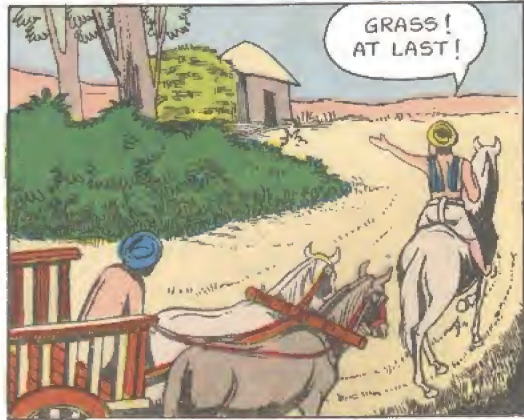
NO GRASS  
IN VARANASI?



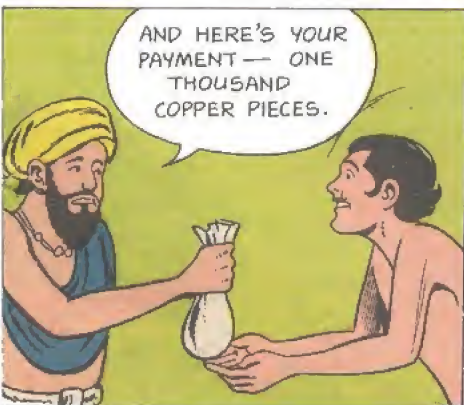
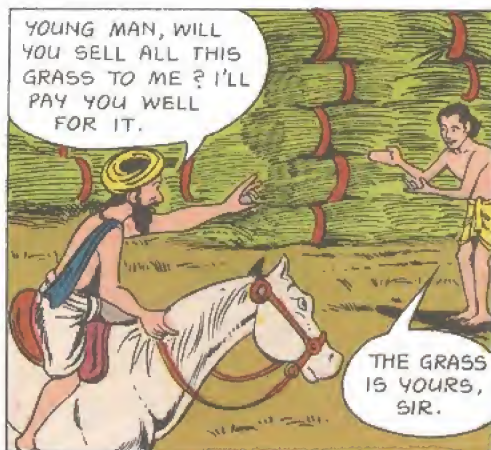
WHERE HAVE THE  
GRASS-CUTTERS  
GONE? I'D  
BETTER GO  
FURTHER—  
NEARER THE  
FIELDS.



GRASS!  
AT LAST!



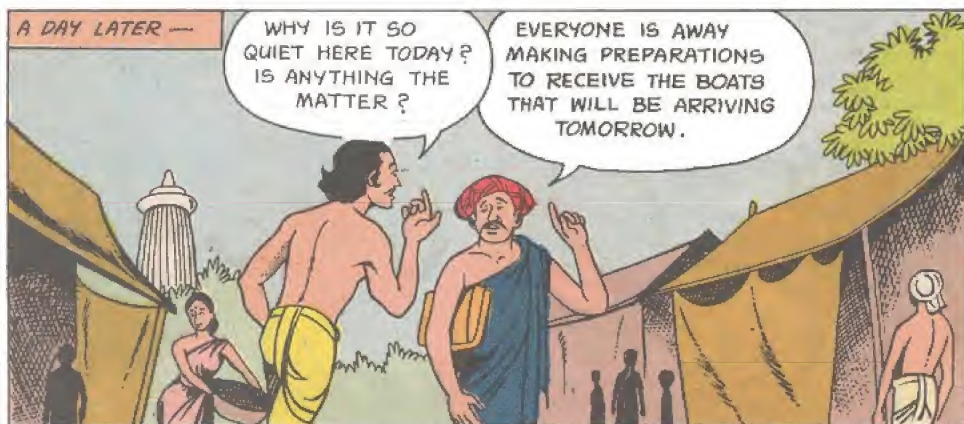




A DAY LATER —

WHY IS IT SO  
QUIET HERE TODAY?  
IS ANYTHING THE  
MATTER ?

EVERYONE IS AWAY  
MAKING PREPARATIONS  
TO RECEIVE THE BOATS  
THAT WILL BE ARRIVING  
TOMORROW.



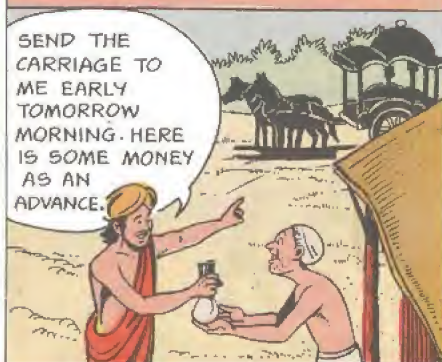
BOATS...  
ARRIVING  
TOMORROW ?

AN IDEA STRUCK HIM  
LIKE LIGHTNING —

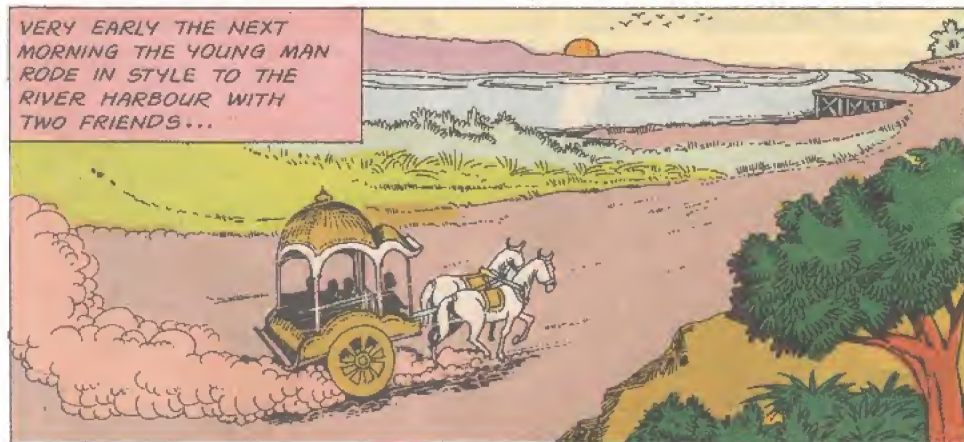


HE BOUGHT NEW CLOTHES AND  
THEN WENT TO HIRE A CARRIAGE.

SEND THE  
CARRIAGE TO  
ME EARLY  
TOMORROW  
MORNING. HERE  
IS SOME MONEY  
AS AN  
ADVANCE.



VERY EARLY THE NEXT  
MORNING THE YOUNG MAN  
RODE IN STYLE TO THE  
RIVER HARBOUR WITH  
TWO FRIENDS...





...AND WAITED TO RECEIVE THE VISITING MERCHANT.



HE WAS, NATURALLY, THE FIRST TO GREET THE MERCHANT.



WELCOME TO  
VARANASI!

I AM HAPPY TO  
MEET YOU, SIR.

I WANT TO BUY ALL  
THE MERCHANDISE  
YOU HAVE BROUGHT.



RIGHT. IT IS A  
PLEASURE TO DO  
BUSINESS WITH  
YOU.

THE MERCHANT QUOTED A PRICE TO WHICH  
THE YOUNG MAN READILY AGREED.



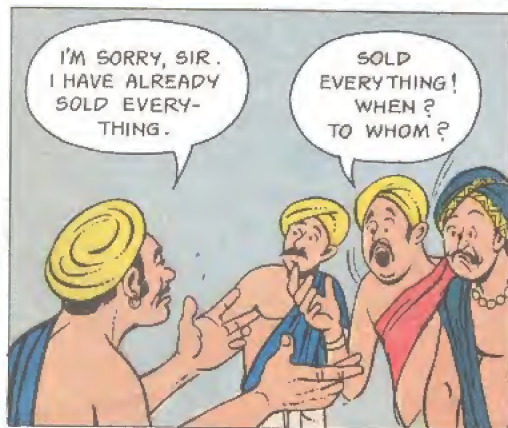
I NEED TIME TO ARRANGE  
THE PAYMENT. MEANWHILE,  
HERE IS MY  
SIGNET RING AS  
SECURITY.

THEN THE YOUNG MAN SET UP A  
CANVAS SHELTER AND WAITED —

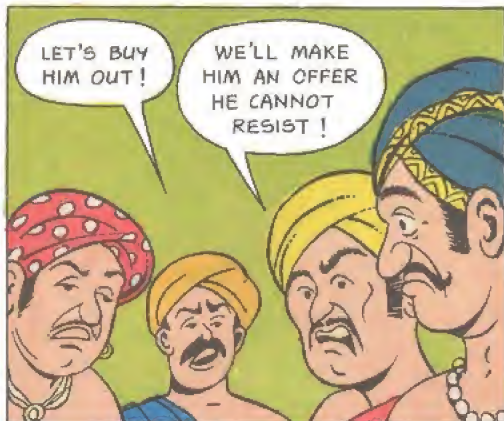


WHEN THE CITY  
MERCHANTS COME,  
BRING THEM IN  
WITH DUE  
COURTESY.

AT DAYBREAK, A HUNDRED MERCHANTS CAME TO THE HARBOUR.







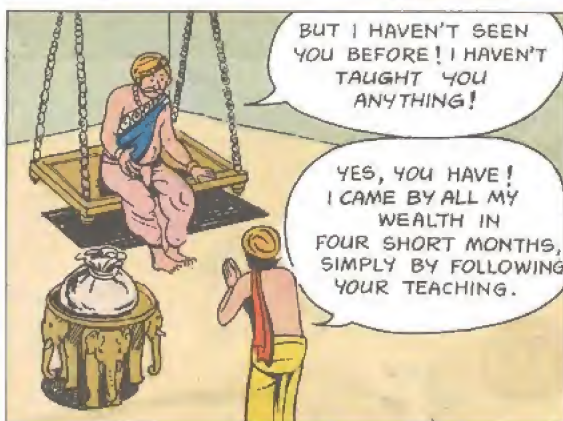




TO SHOW HIS GRATITUDE, HE WENT TO CALL ON THE TREASURER, TAKING HALF HIS PROFITS WITH HIM.

SIR, PERMIT ME TO PRESENT YOU WITH THESE COINS AS MY HUMBLE GURU-DAKSHINA.

GURU-DAKSHINA!



BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE! I HAVEN'T TAUGHT YOU ANYTHING!

YES, YOU HAVE! I CAME BY ALL MY WEALTH IN FOUR SHORT MONTHS, SIMPLY BY FOLLOWING YOUR TEACHING.

THEN HE TOLD THE TREASURER THE WHOLE STORY, STARTING WITH THE DEAD MOUSE —

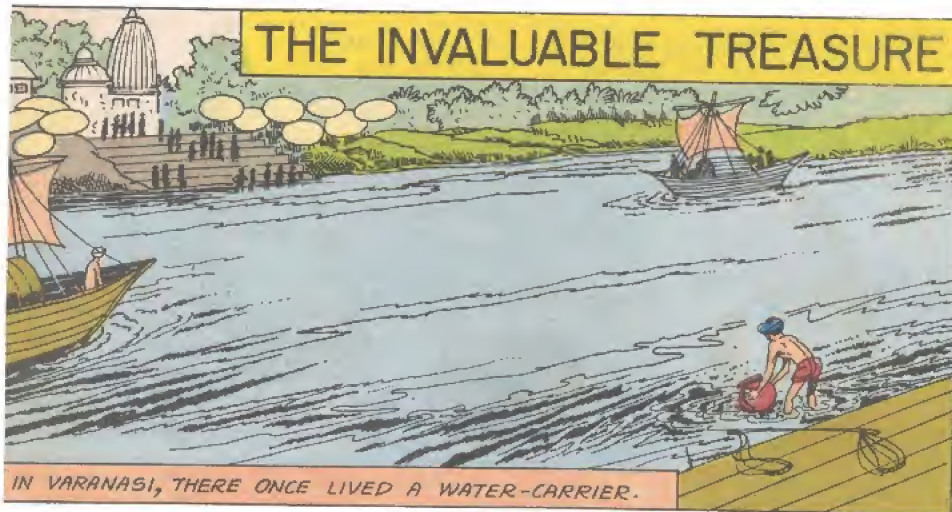
THIS YOUNG MAN IS EXTRAORDINARILY CLEVER — JUST THE PERSON I'D CHOOSE FOR MY LOVELY DAUGHTER.

SO HE MARRIED THE YOUNG MAN TO HIS DAUGHTER AND GAVE HIM ALL HIS FAMILY ESTATES.

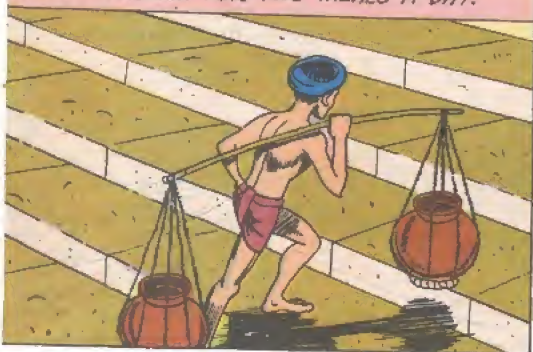
THE GODDESS OF SUCCESS SMILES ON THOSE WHO SHOW INITIATIVE. MAY YOU ALWAYS BE SO FORTUNATE, MY SON!



# THE INVALUABLE TREASURE



THOUGH HE WORKED HARD, HE BARELY  
EARNED ENOUGH FOR TWO MEALS A DAY.



HOWEVER, ONE DAY HE MADE A  
LITTLE EXTRA MONEY.





HE BEGAN GENTLY TO TAP AT THE BRICKS.

AH! I THINK  
I'VE FOUND  
A LOOSE  
BRICK!



IT'S THE FIRST  
BRICK TO THE  
LEFT OF THE  
NORTHERN GATE...



...AND THE TENTH  
ONE FROM THE  
GROUND LEVEL.



THE PLACE  
WILL BE  
EASY TO  
REMEMBER.

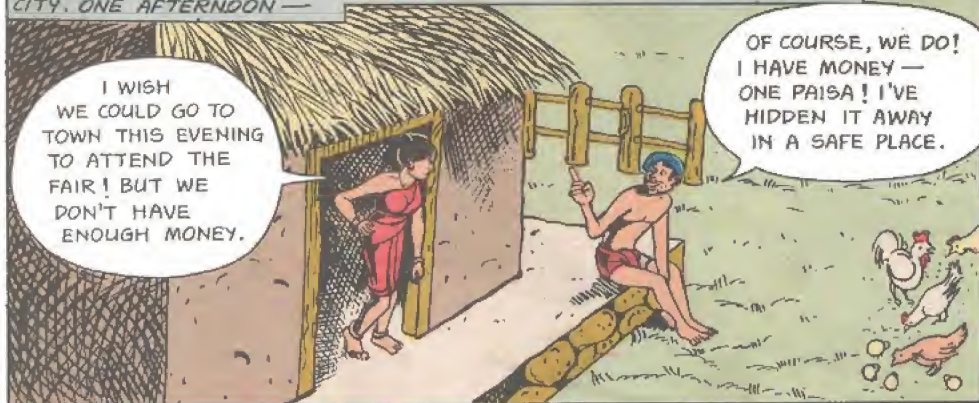


THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME HE HAD EARNED A LITTLE MORE THAN HE ABSOLUTELY NEEDED. HE HAD NEVER HAD SUCH LUCK BEFORE.

AH! MY TREASURE  
IS SAFE THERE.  
I AM A RICH  
MAN!

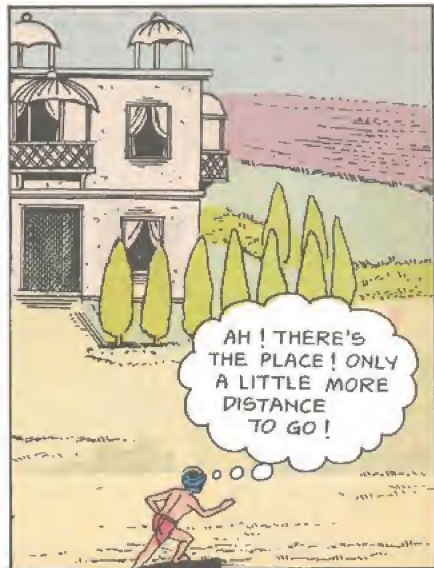
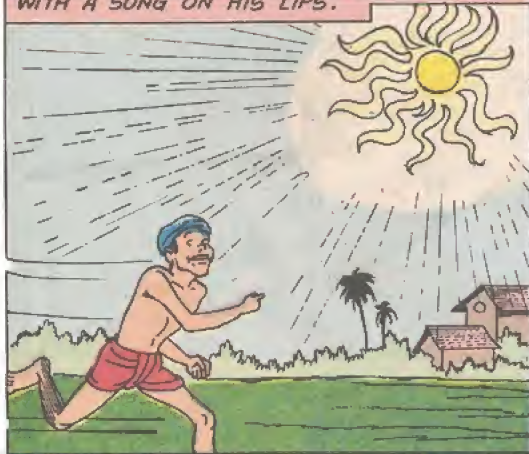


THE YEARS PASSED BY. HE MARRIED A GIRL WHO ALSO WORKED AS A WATER-CARRIER. THEY BUILT A HUT NEAR THE SOUTHERN GATE OF THE CITY. ONE AFTERNOON —

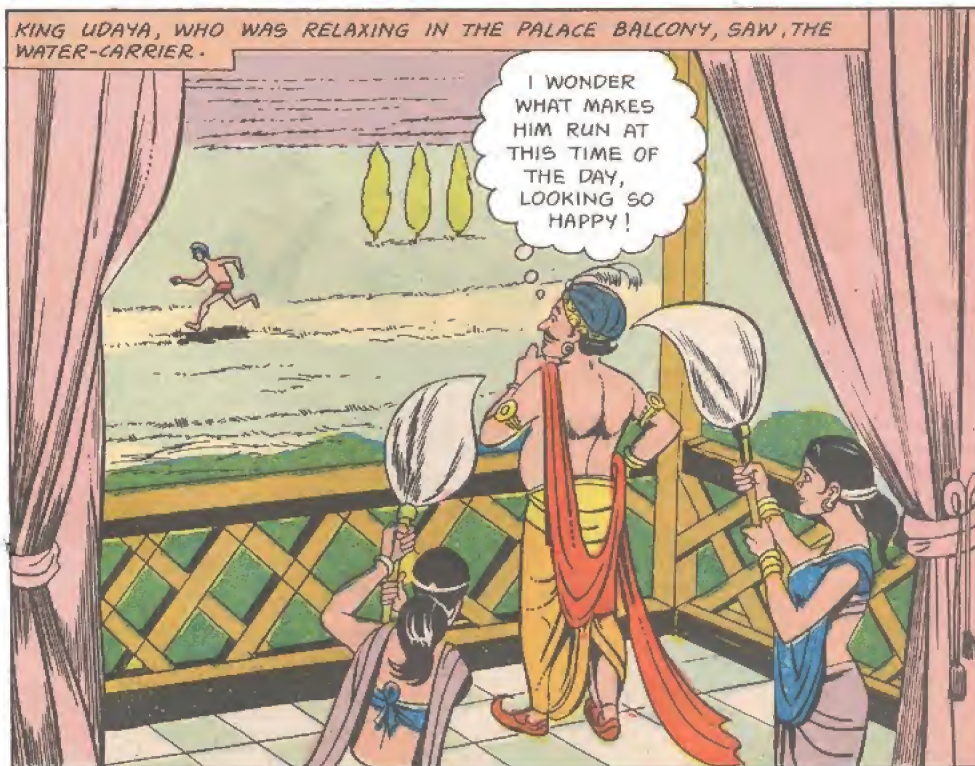




IT WAS SUMMER. THE MIDDAY SUN WAS BLAZING IN THE SKY. NO ONE WAS TO BE SEEN ON THE STREETS EXCEPT THE WATER-CARRIER WHO WAS RUNNING WITH A SONG ON HIS LIPS.



KING UDAYA, WHO WAS RELAXING IN THE PALACE BALCONY, SAW THE WATER-CARRIER.



HE SENT WORD TO HAVE THE MAN BROUGHT TO HIM —



LET ME GO!

THE KING WANTS  
TO SPEAK TO YOU.  
COME!



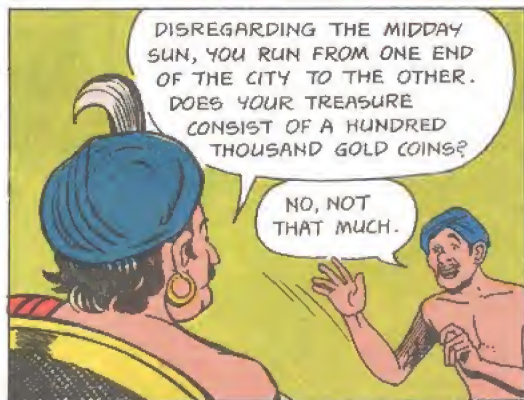
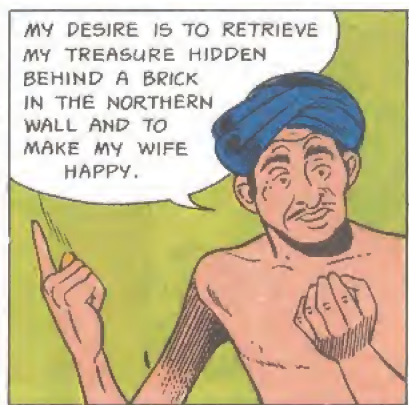
I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT  
THINGS TO DO. I HAVE  
NO TIME TO MEET  
THE KING ....

WHAT A SIMPLE MAN!  
DON'T YOU REALISE IT  
IS AN HONOUR TO BE  
TAKEN BEFORE THE  
KING ?



THE GUARDS HAD TO  
USE FORCE TO TAKE  
THE WATER-CARRIER  
TO THE KING.





THE KING ASKED IF IT WERE A THOUSAND,  
A HUNDRED, FIFTY, TEN GOLD COINS.  
BUT THE WATER-CARRIER SHOOK HIS  
HEAD —

NO, NO. NOT  
THAT MUCH!

THEN  
HOW MUCH  
IS IT?

IT IS ONE  
PAISA, MY  
KING.



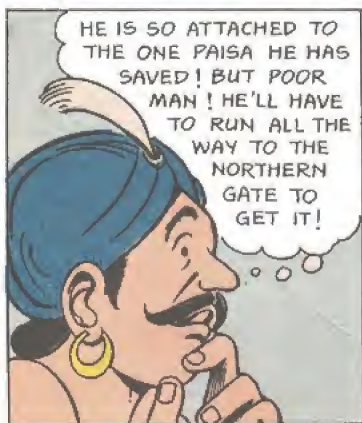
YES, WITH THAT MONEY  
I CAN BUY A LOT OF THINGS  
FOR MY WIFE AND MAKE  
HER HAPPY.

MY FRIEND, YOU  
DON'T HAVE TO RUN  
TO THE NORTHERN  
GATE TO GET ONE  
PAISA. I WILL  
GIVE IT TO  
YOU.

HERE, TAKE  
THIS AND GO  
HOME.

I WILL TAKE WHAT  
YOU GIVE ME. BUT I WILL  
GO AND GET THE OTHER  
COIN, TOO.





DESPERATELY, THE KING RAISED HIS OFFER AGAIN AND AGAIN. BUT THE WATER-CARRIER INSISTED THAT HE WOULD GO AND FETCH HIS HIDDEN TREASURE. FINALLY —

I WILL GIVE YOU HALF MY KINGDOM IF ONLY YOU WILL AGREE TO DROP THE IDEA OF RUNNING NOW FOR ONE PAISA!

I AGREE!

AT LAST! I AM HAPPY TO HAVE YOUR AGREEMENT!

THE KING HELD A DARBAR TO CROWN THE WATER-CARRIER KING OF ONE HALF OF THE KINGDOM.

NOW, FRIEND, TELL ME WHICH HALF OF THE KINGDOM YOU CHOOSE TO HAVE.

THE WATER-CARRIER THOUGHT FOR A SECOND —

I WANT THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE KINGDOM.

YOU'VE WON AGAIN!

THUS, THE WATER-CARRIER NOT ONLY GOT HALF THE KINGDOM BUT ALSO HIS TREASURE WHICH WAS HIDDEN IN THE NORTHERN WALL.



# Jeevan and Hanu wonder at **HORSE SENSE**



Clever Hans was a horse who lived in Germany, early in the twentieth century. He could read, solve mathematical problems, and answer questions on world political affairs — or so it seemed.

Hans would answer all mathematical questions by tapping his leg. If you asked him '3 plus 4', he

would tap seven times. Non-mathematical questions (such as 'Is London the capital of Britain?') would be answered by shaking or nodding the head. Hans could even answer questions written out on blackboards.



Finally Hans' secret was discovered. He was highly sensitive to the reactions of people around him, especially his master Osten. When a



mathematical question was asked, people would look at Hans' foot. So Hans would start tapping. When he reached the right number of taps, people would react in some way, without being aware of it. They would nod slightly, or relax, or smile. Hans would then stop tapping.

Hans was able to pick up similar cues for non-mathematical questions. No one knows how he learnt this trick.

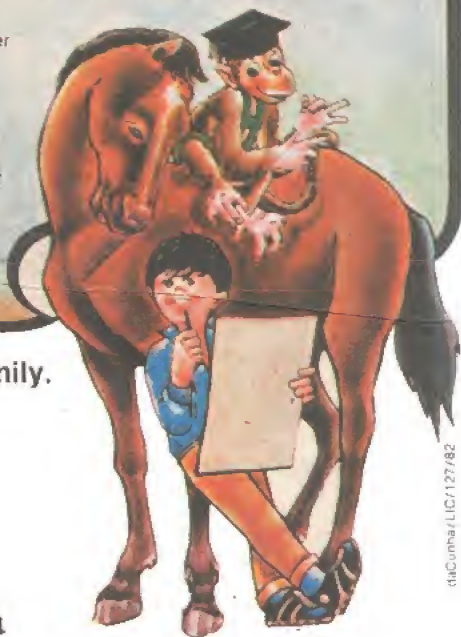
The most amazing thing is that even after people became aware of the horse's method, they could still not stop sending out these little clues, no matter how hard they tried!



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I have a little bear, his name is Teddy  
I take him everywhere, cause he's so cuddly.  
When Teddy is good, I give him a treat  
And Teddy gives me Gems, isn't that sweet?

**Got a moment? Get a Gem!**



*Cadbury's*  
Chocolates

Anything's possible with Cadbury's Gems



**ADVENTURE !  
THRILLS !  
EXCITEMENT !**

# **DOG DETECTIVE RANJHA**

Owning a dog is a lot of fun. But when that dog is Ranjha, fur flies and criminals go in fear. Tinkle serialises the true-life adventures of the one and only Dog Detective Ranjha, a never before saga of a dog's heroism and intelligence.



**TINKLE**

THE CHILDREN'S MONTHLY FROM  
THE HOUSE OF AMAR CHITRA KATHA

TINKLE 103/82



Green  
Silver  
Orange  
Silver  
Red  
Silver  
Yellow

# No foolin'!

## Real Poppins

now have a  
silver striped wrappin'!

Guess what, kids! The tricksters  
can't fool you now. All you do  
is watch for the silver stripes  
on the Parle POPPINS  
colourful foil pack.

Then, keep poppin' them in  
for fruity flavoured  
fun, okay?

WATCH FOR  
THE SILVER STRIPES  
BEFORE YOU  
POP 'EM IN.

**PARLE**  
**POPPINS**

Now,  
the imitators can't  
fool you.

